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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Intelligence Judgments

The intent of my op-ed piece ["Why I Quit the CIA," Jan. 2] was to bring attention to the problem of policy makers' rejecting intelligence judgments that displease them. The letter from William Casey [Jan. 13] did not address that point.

Instead, he discussed the estimate on which we disagreed, repeating in short form what the two of us discussed in correspondence several months ago. In reply to two letters, I put in what I assume to be the official record a more complete account of what seem to be the differences between Mr. Casey and me on that question.

The question of general interest is not who was right or wrong about that estimate, but how we are to ensure that the intelligence that goes to the president is not diluted on the way by the passions of the moment.

The question may be put to one side; we must not pretend that it is either irrelevant or unimportant.

JOHN HORTON
Hollywood, Md.

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